



News Release

For Immediate Release:

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For More Information:

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**REVIEW OF CHESTERFIELD COUNTY'S FEBRUARY PRESIDENTIAL
PRIMARY ELECTION PROCESS IS MADE PUBLIC**

~ Report Calls for Changes in Chesterfield County's Processes and Procedures ~

RICHMOND, VA – In a report presented to the Virginia State Board of Elections on Friday, May 23, 2008 recommendations were made to improve the process for future elections in Chesterfield County.

As the result of complaints from voters and by the Democratic Party of Virginia regarding the dual presidential primaries held on February 12 in Chesterfield County, a special review team was assigned by the Virginia State Board of Elections to examine the processes and procedures utilized on Election Day. Comprised of three staff members of the State Board of Elections, the review team developed a 39 page report that includes recommendations and a detailed assessment of the events that led to a shortage of ballots in nine precincts, the casting of 299 handwritten ballots on scrap pieces of paper, and long lines that adversely effected voters.

“For Chesterfield County and the State Board of Elections, the findings in this report provide a basis on which we can all build. It’s really about ensuring the integrity of the election process,” said Jean Cunningham, Chairman of the Virginia State Board of Elections. “There were significant problems that occurred on Election Day raising the concern of voter disenfranchisement. Increasing oversight and working more closely with localities to more accurately determine voter turnout, the State Board of Elections is making every effort to prevent this from ever occurring again.”

The report contains recommendations for future elections specifically for the local Electoral Board, General Registrar, and Officers of Election to implement. Some of the major recommendations in the report include:

- Conducting post election evaluations that include feedback from voters and Officers of

Election.

- Reviewing every procedure and process utilized when conducting elections including how the number of ballots to order is determined and requiring supporting justification for ballot orders.
- Educating voters on eligibility to vote by absentee ballot, specifically to prevent voters with special needs from leaving the polls without voting.
- Establishing the minimum level of training necessary for Officers of Election. Also, expanding their training to deal with unanticipated emergency situations.
- Clarifying the roles of the Electoral Board and General Registrar and documenting delegated duties.

The report also contains a listing of possible future legislation that would improve voting technology, expand in-person absentee voting, mandate an Officer of Election to voter ratio, and clarify the process to initiate a contest in a presidential primary.

For a complete and full copy of the report go to www.sbe.virginia.gov.

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